



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT: Klemp et al. §  
FILED: July 14, 2000 § Art Unit: 3761  
SERIAL NO.: 09/615,978 § Examiner: J. Stephens  
TITLE: DISPOSABLE ABSORBENT §  
ARTICLE EMPLOYING AN §  
ABSORBENT COMPOSITE §  
AND METHOD OF MAKING §  
THE SAME §

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RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Box Non-Fee Amendment  
Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Responsive to the Office Action mailed July 18, 2001 relating to the above-referenced application, Applicant respectfully requests entry of the following amendments and reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections.

IN THE CLAIMS:

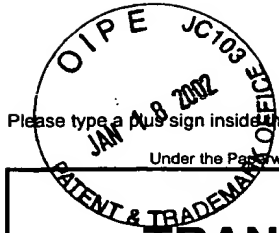
Please substitute the following amended Claims 29 and 31.

A1  
29. (once amended) The absorbent article of claim 18, wherein a plurality of sections of said topsheet is spaced from said backsheet and alternating sections of said topsheet are secured to said backsheet, each said spaced topsheet section including one or more of said absorbent layers such that said topsheet forms said nonwoven substrate of said absorbent composite.

A2  
31. (once amended) The absorbent composite of claim 30, wherein said absorbent layer is supported underneath a section of the topsheet, such that said section of topsheet provides said nonwoven substrate of said absorbent composite.

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Approved for use through 10/31/2002 PTO/SB/21 (08-08)  
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
OMB 0651-0031

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

<b>TRANSMITTAL FORM</b>  (to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)	Application Number	09/615,978	
	Filing Date	July 14, 2000	
	First Named Inventor	Paul M. Ducker	
	Group Art Unit	3761	
	Examiner Name	J. Stephens	
Total Number of Pages in This Submission		Attorney Docket Number	HO-P01880US1

ENCLOSURES (check all that apply)		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fee Transmittal Form  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fee Attached  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amendment/Reply  <input type="checkbox"/> After Final  <input type="checkbox"/> Affidavits/declaration(s)  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Extension of Time Request  <input type="checkbox"/> Express Abandonment Request  <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement  <input type="checkbox"/> Certified Copy of Priority Document(s)  <input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts/Incomplete Application  <input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts under 37 CFR 1.52 or 1.53	<input type="checkbox"/> Assignment Papers (for an Application)  <input type="checkbox"/> Drawing(s)  <input type="checkbox"/> Licensing-related Papers  <input type="checkbox"/> Petition  <input type="checkbox"/> Petition to Convert to a Provisional Application  <input type="checkbox"/> Power of Attorney, Revocation Change of Correspondence Address  <input type="checkbox"/> Terminal Disclaimer  <input type="checkbox"/> Request for Refund  <input type="checkbox"/> CD, Number of CD(s) _____	<input type="checkbox"/> After Allowance Communication to Group  <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Board of Appeals and Interferences  <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Group (Appeal Notice, Brief, Reply Brief)  <input type="checkbox"/> Proprietary Information  <input type="checkbox"/> Status Letter  <input type="checkbox"/> Other Enclosure(s) (please identify below)
Remarks		

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT	
Firm or Individual Name	FULBRIGHT & JAWORSKI L.L.P. Michael S. McCoy
Signature	
Date	January 18, 2002

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as Express Mail, Airbill No. EU186311362US, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231, on the date shown below.	
Dated: January 18, 2002	Signature:  (Michael S. McCoy)

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OTPE JC105  
JAN 18 2002  
PATENT

PTO/SB/17 (11-01)  
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U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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<b>FEE TRANSMITTAL</b> <b>for FY 2002</b> <small>Patent fees are subject to annual revision.</small>		<b>Complete if Known</b>	
		Application Number	09/615,978
		Filing Date	July 14, 2000
		First Named Inventor	Paul M. Ducker
		Examiner Name	J. Stephens
		Group Art Unit	3761
<input type="checkbox"/> Application claims small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27		Attorney Docket No.	HO-P01880US1
<b>TOTAL AMOUNT OF PAYMENT</b> (\$) <b>920.00</b>			

<b>METHOD OF PAYMENT</b> (check all that apply)		<b>FEE CALCULATION</b> (continued)																																																																																																																																																																																			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Check <input type="checkbox"/> Credit Card <input type="checkbox"/> Money Order <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> None <input type="checkbox"/> Deposit Account Deposit Account Number: <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">06-2375</span> Deposit Account Name: <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">Fulbright &amp; Jaworski L.L.P.</span> The Commissioner is hereby authorized to: (check all that apply) <input type="checkbox"/> Charge fee(s) indicated below <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Credit any overpayments <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Charge any additional fee(s) during the pendency of this application <input type="checkbox"/> Charge fee(s) indicated below, except for the filing fee to the above-identified deposit account.		<b>3. ADDITIONAL FEES</b> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">Large Entity</th> <th colspan="2">Small Entity</th> <th rowspan="2">Fee Description</th> <th rowspan="2">Fee Paid</th> </tr> <tr> <th>Fee Code</th> <th>Fee (\$)</th> <th>Fee Code</th> <th>Fee (\$)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>105</td><td>130</td><td>205</td><td>65</td><td>Surcharge - late filing fee or oath</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>127</td><td>50</td><td>227</td><td>25</td><td>Surcharge - late provisional filing fee or cover sheet</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>139</td><td>130</td><td>139</td><td>130</td><td>Non-English specification</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>147</td><td>2,520</td><td>147</td><td>2,520</td><td>For filing a request for <i>ex parte</i> reexamination</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>112</td><td>920*</td><td>112</td><td>920*</td><td>Requesting publication of SIR prior to Examiner action</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>113</td><td>1,840*</td><td>113</td><td>1,840*</td><td>Requesting publication of SIR after Examiner action</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>115</td><td>110</td><td>215</td><td>55</td><td>Extension for reply within first month</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>116</td><td>400</td><td>216</td><td>200</td><td>Extension for reply within second month</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>117</td><td>920</td><td>217</td><td>460</td><td>Extension for reply within third month</td><td>920.00</td></tr> <tr><td>118</td><td>1,440</td><td>218</td><td>720</td><td>Extension for reply within fourth month</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>128</td><td>1,960</td><td>228</td><td>980</td><td>Extension for reply within fifth month</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>119</td><td>320</td><td>219</td><td>160</td><td>Notice of Appeal</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>120</td><td>320</td><td>220</td><td>160</td><td>Filing a brief in support of an appeal</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>121</td><td>280</td><td>221</td><td>140</td><td>Request for oral hearing</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>138</td><td>1,510</td><td>138</td><td>1,510</td><td>Petition to institute a public use proceeding</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>140</td><td>110</td><td>240</td><td>55</td><td>Petition to revive - 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<b>SUBMITTED BY</b>		<b>Complete (if applicable)</b>	
Name (Print/Type)	Michael S. McCoy	Registration No. (Attorney/Agent)	46,913
Signature		Telephone	(713) 651-8216
		Date	January 18, 2002

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